

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TAGS: PINT VE

SUBJ: NEW CABINET APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

REF: CARACAS 207

1. PRESIDENT PEREZ AT 6:00 PM LOCAL TIME JAN 7 SWORE
INTO OFFICE THE NEW VENEZUELAN CABINET. THE NEW MEMBER OF
THE CABINET ARE AS FOLLOWS:

MINISTER OF INFORMATION & TOURISM DIEGO ARRIA
MINISTER OF JUSTICE JUAN MARTIN ECHEVERRIA
MINISTER OF YOUTH PEDRO PARIS MONTESINOS
MINISTER OF EDUCATION CARLOS RAFAEL SILVA
MINISTER OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE PRESIDENCY JOSE LUIS SALCEDO
BASTARDO
MINISTER OF TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS JESUS VIVAS CASANOVA
MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINES VALENTIN HERNANDEZ
MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT LUIS ALVAREZ DOMINGUEZ
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES ARNOLDO JOSE
GABALDON
MINISTER OD COORDINATION AND PLANNING LORENZO AZPURURA
MATURET
MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT ROBERTO PADILLA FERNANDEZ
GOVERNOR OF THE FEDERAL DISTRICT MANUEL MANTILLA

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2. IN ADDITION THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENT WAS ANNOUNCED:
PRESIDENT OF THE FUND FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SONIA PEREZ
RODRIGUEZ

3. THE NEW FACES IN THE CABINET ARE THOSE OF ECHEVERRIA,
PARIS, SILVA, ALVAREZ, AZPURURA, AND MANTILLA. ECHEVERRIA,

38 YEARS OLD, MOVES UP FROM 5 YEARS AS DIRECTOR OF THE TECHNICAL JUDICIAL POLICE (PTJ), WHICH IS A PART OF THE JUSTICE MINISTRY. PARIS, 53 YEARS OLD A FORMER AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS UNDER PRESIDENT LEONI, IS A MEMBER OF THE AD NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND HAS LAAELY HEADED AD'S DEPT OF MUNICIPAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS. SILVA IS A 51 YEAR OLD ECONOMIST WHO HAS BEEN VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL BANK FOR 15 YEARS. ALVAREZ, A 38 YEAR OLD LOWYER, HAS BEEN PRESIDENT OF THE VENEZUELAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (CVF) AND PRESIDENT OF THE INDUSTRIAL CREDIT FUND. MANTILLA, WHO WILL BE 50 YEARS OLD THIS YEAR, HAS BEEN GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MIRANDA (WHICH INCLUDES HALF OF THE CITY OF CARACAS) FOR NEARLY THREE YEARS AND IS A FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE RULING ACCION DEMOCRATICA (AD) PARTY IN THE FEDERAL DISTRICT. AZPURURA, A 49 YEAR OLD ENGINEERING GRADUATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER TWICE AND SINCE 1974, PRESIDENT OF THE STATE PHONE COMPANY(CANTV).

4. THE OTHER CHANGES INVOLVE MINISTERS WHO ARE CHANGING THEIR JOB DESCRIPTIONS. THE POPULAR DIEGO ARRIA, GOVERNOR OF THE FEDERAL DISTRIC SINCE 1974, WILL HEAD UP THE NEW MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM. HERNANDEZ HAS BEEN MINISE AND HYDROCARBONS MINISTER SINCE MARCH 1974 AND WILL HEAD THE RETITLED MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINES. GABALDON, FORMERLY MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, WILL BE THE GOV#S FIRST MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESURCES. PADILLA, MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SINCE NOV 1975, HAS BEEN RAISED TO FULL MINISTERIAL RANK AS MINISTER OF URGAN DEVELOPMENT. SALCEDO, FORMERLY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESIDENCY, WILL HHEAD THE NEW MINISTRY OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE PRESIDENCY. VIVAS, COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER SINCE NOV 1976, NOW BECOMES MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS.

5. ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CABINET HAVE BEEN RE-CONFIRMED IN THEIR PRESENT PORTFOLIOS.

6. COMMENT. THE CABINET REORGANIZATION IS PRESIDENT PEREZ' FIRST MAJOR CABINET RESHUFFLE SINCE JAN 1975. THERE HAVE BEEN NO CHANGES IN THE MOST IMPORTANT MINISTRIES AND INTERIOR MINISTER LEPAGE, FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOVAR, FINANCE MINISTER HURTADO, AND DEFENSE MINISTER ALVAREZ CONTINUE IN OFFICE. THE MAJOR SURPRISE AMONG THE NEW APPOINTMENTS IS THE APPOINTMENT OF PTJ DIRECTOR ECHEVERRIA AS MINISTER OF JUSTICE. ALSO SURPRISING WAS PEREZ' APPOINTMENT OF HIS DAUGHTER, SONIA PEREZ, A 26 YEAR OLD SOCIOLOGIST, AS PRESIDENT OF THE FUND FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (FUNDACOMUN). AMONG THE MINISTERS STEPPING DOWN, FORM COORDINATION ANDPLANNING MINISTER

GUMERSINDO RODRIGUEZ IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO THE CONGRESS
WHERE HE WILL POSSIBLY BECOME THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE
COMMITTEE OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES.
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